

G1  
F2

19. (Thrice Amended) A method of screening a drug for effectiveness as an ion channel blocker for an ion channel, said method comprising:

contacting a cell, which cell has a functional ion channel having an external vestibule portion, with a drug which is an ion channel blocker candidate, wherein the external vestibule portion is a portion of the ion channel located between an S5 transmembrane and pore forming region of the ion channel or between the pore forming region and an S6 transmembrane of the ion channel;

evaluating the cell to determine if the ion channel blocker candidate binds to the external vestibule portion of the ion channel and inhibits ion transport through the ion channel; and

identifying a drug which binds to the external vestibule portion of the ion channel and inhibits ion transport through the ion channel as an ion channel blocker.